CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising a support having a hydrophilic surface and an oleophilic coating[[,]] provided on the hydrophilic surface, said coating comprising

[[-]] an infrared light absorbing agent and

[[-]] a polymer which comprises a phenolic monomeric unit, wherein the phenyl group of the phenolic monomeric unit is substituted by a group having the structure -N=N-Q, wherein the -N=N- group is covalently bound to a carbon atom of the phenyl group, and wherein Q is an aromatic group.

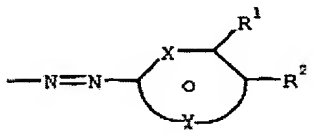
2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein Q is a group comprising at least one heteroatom.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein said heteroatom is a nitrogen, an oxygen or a sulfur atom.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~claims 1,2, or 3~~ claim 1 wherein Q has the structure -A- $(T)_n$
wherein A is a mono-cyclic 5- or 6-membered aromatic group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring annelated with another ring system,
wherein n is an integer[[,]] selected between 0 and the maximum available positions on the aromatic group A,
wherein each T group is selected from $-SO_2-NH-R^1$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^1-R^2$, $-NR^1-CO-R^4$, $-NR^1-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^1-CS-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^1-CO-O-R^1$, $-O-CO-NR^1-R^2$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^4$, $-CO-R^3$, $-SO_3-R^1$, $-O-SO_2-R^4$, $-SO_2-R^1$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^1)(-O-R^2)$, $-O-P(=O)(-O-R^1)(-O-R^2)$, $-NR^1-R^2$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, $-N=N-R^4$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogenide [[or]] and $-M-R^1$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

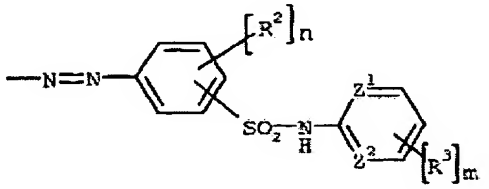
wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are each independently selected from hydrogen [[or]] and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 and R^5 are selected from [[an]] optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl [[or]] and heteroaralkyl ~~[group,]~~ groups, or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



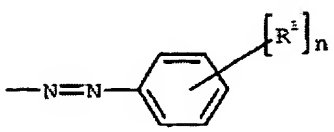
wherein X is CR^3, NR^4 or N,
wherein Y denotes the necessary atoms to form a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring, said atoms being selected from the group consisting of CR^3, NR^4, N, S [[or]] and O,
wherein each R^1, R^2 and R^3 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^5$, $-NH-SO_2-R^7$, $-CO-NR^5-R^6$, $-NR^5-CO-R^7$, $-O-CO-R^7$, $-CO-O-R^5$, $-CO-R^5$, $-SO_3-R^5$, $-SO_2-R^5$, $-SO-R^7$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^5)(-O-R^6)$, $-NR^5-R^6$, $-O-R^5$, $-S-R^5$, -CN, $-NO_2$, halogen [[or]] and $-M-R^5$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen [[or]] and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R^7 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^7 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



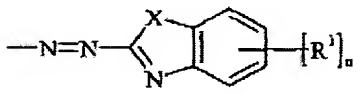
wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are independently selected from CR^1 [[or]] and N, wherein R^1 is selected from hydrogen [[or]] and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,
wherein m is 0, 1, 2 or 3,
wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^4$, $-NH-SO_2-R^6$, $-CO-NR^4-R^5$, $-NR^4-CO-R^6$, $-O-CO-R^6$, $-CO-O-R^4$, $-CO-R^4$, $-SO_3-R^4$, $-SO_2-R^4$, $-SO-R^6$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^4)(-O-R^5)$, $-NR^4-R^5$, $-O-R^4$, $-S-R^4$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, halogen [[or]] and $-M-R^4$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen [[or]] and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, wherein R^6 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^6 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5,
wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO^2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogen [[or]] and $-M-R^2$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen [[or]] and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

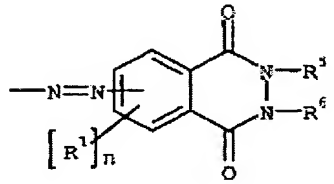
8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,
wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO_2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogen [[or]] and $-M-R^2$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein X is O, S or NR^5,
wherein R^2, R^3 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen [[or]] and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

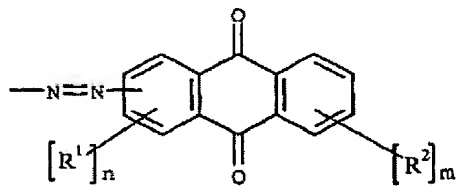
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3,
wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO_2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, -CN, $-NO_2$, a halogen [[or]] and $-M-R^2$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^2, R^3, R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen [[or]] and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure, or wherein R^5 and R^6 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



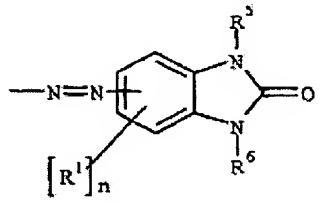
wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4, 3wherein each R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, - SO_2-NH-R^3, -NH-SO_2-R^5, -CO-NR^3-R^4, -NR^3-CO-R^5, -O-CO-R^5, -CO-O-R^3, -CO-R^3, -SO_3-R^3, -SO_2-R^3, -SO-R^5, -P(=O)(-O-R^3)(-O-R^4), -NR^3-R^4, -O-R^3, -S-R^3, -CN, -NO_2, a halogen [[or]] and -M-R^3, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen [[or]] and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

wherein R^5 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula

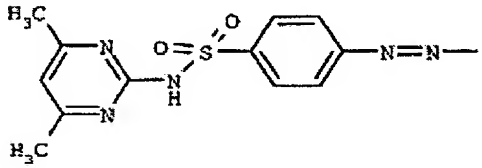


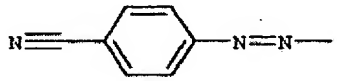
wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

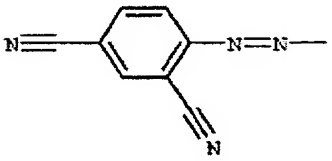
wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, -SO_2-NH-R^2, -NH-SO_2-R^4, -CO-NR^2-R^3, -NR^2-CO-R^4, -O-CO-R^4, -CO-O-R^2, -CO-R^2, -SO_3-R^2, -SO_2-R^2, -SO-R^4, -P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3), -NR^2-R^3, -O-R^2, - S-R^2, -CN, -NO_2, a halogen [[or]] and -M-R^2, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^2, R^3, R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen [[or]] and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

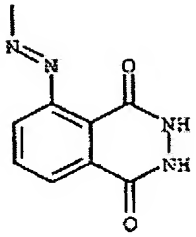
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^6 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

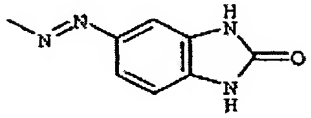
12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises one of the following ~~formula~~ formulae:

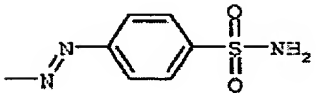


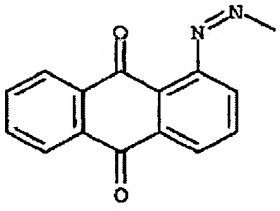


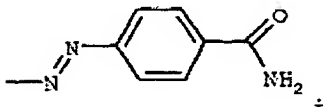












13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said polymer comprising a phenolic monomeric unit is a novolac, resol or polyvinylphenol.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 14, wherein said dissolution inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of

[[-]] an organic compound which comprises at least one aromatic group and a hydrogen bonding site, ~~and/or~~

[[-]] a polymer or surfactant comprising siloxane or perfluoroalkyl units, and mixtures thereof.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The lithographic printing plate precursor according to ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

18. (Canceled)

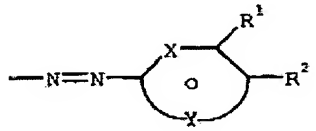
19. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein Q has the structure -A- $(T)_n$

wherein A is a mono-cyclic 5- or 6-membered aromatic group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring annelated with another ring system,
wherein n is an integer selected between 0 and the maximum available positions on the aromatic group A,
wherein each T group is selected from $-SO_2-NH-R^1$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^1-R^2$, $-NR^1-CO-R^4$, $-NR^1-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^1-CS-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^1-CO-O-R^1$, $-O-CO-NR^1-R^2$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^4$, $-CO-R^4$, $-SO_3-R^1$, $-O-SO_2-R^4$, $-SO_2-R^1$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^1)(-O-R^2)$, $-O-P(=O)(-O-R^1)(-O-R^2)$, $-NR^1-R^2$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, $-N=N-R^4$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogenide and $-M-R^1$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are each independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 and R^5 are selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

20. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein Q has the structure $-A-(T)_n$
wherein A is a mono-cyclic 5- or 6-membered aromatic group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring annelated with another ring system,
wherein n is an integer selected between 0 and the maximum available positions on the aromatic group A,
wherein each T group is selected from $-SO_2-NH-R^1$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^1-R^2$, $-NR^1-CO-R^4$, $-NR^1-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^1-CS-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^1-CO-O-R^1$, $-O-CO-NR^1-R^2$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^4$, $-CO-R^4$, $-SO_3-R^1$, $-O-SO_2-R^1$, $-SO_2-R^4$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^1)(-O-R^2)$, $-O-P(=O)(-O-R^1)(-O-R^2)$, $-NR^1-R^2$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, $-N=N-R^4$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogenide and $-M-R^1$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

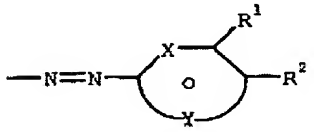
wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are each independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 and R^5 are selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

21. (New)The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein X is CR^3, NR^4 or N,
wherein Y denotes the necessary atoms to form a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring, said atoms being selected from the group consisting of CR^3, NR^4, N, S and O,
wherein each R^1, R^2 and R^3 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^5$, $-NH-SO_2-R^7$, $-CO-NR^5-R^6$, $-NR^5-CO-R^7$, $-O-CO-R^7$, $-CO-O-R^5$, $-CO-R^5$, $-SO_3-R^5$, $-SO_2-R^5$, $-SO-R^7$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^5)(-O-R^6)$, $-NR^5-R^6$, $-O-R^5$, $-S-R^5$, -CN, $-NO_2$, halogen and $-M-R^5$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^7 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^7 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

22. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein X is CR^3, NR^4 or N,

wherein Y denotes the necessary atoms to form a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring, said atoms being selected from the group consisting of CR^3, NR^4, N, S and O,

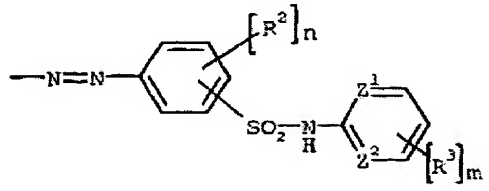
wherein each R^1, R^2 and R^3 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^5$, $-NH-SO_2-R^7$, $-CO-NR^5-R^6$, $-NR^5-CO-R^7$, $-O-CO-R^7$, $-CO-O-R^5$, $-CO-R^5$, $-SO_3-R^5$, $-SO_2-R^5$, $-SO-R^7$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^5)(-O-R^6)$, $-NR^5-R^6$, $-O-R^5$, $-S-R^5$, -CN, $-NO_2$, halogen and $-M-R^5$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

wherein R^7 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^7 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

23. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are independently selected from CR^1 or N,

wherein R^1 is selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

wherein m is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

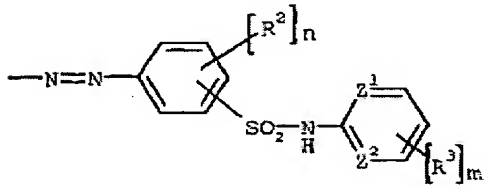
wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^4$, $-NH-SO_2-R^6$, $-CO-NR^4-R^5$, $-NR^4-CO-R^6$, $-O-CO-R^6$, $-CO-O-R^4$, $-CO-R^4$, $-SO_3-R^4$, $-SO_2-R^4$, $-SO-R^6$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^4)(-O-R^5)$, $-NR^4-R^5$, $-O-R^4$, $-S-R^4$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, halogen, and $-M-R^4$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

wherein R^6 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^6 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

24. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are independently selected from CR^1 and N,

wherein R^1 is selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

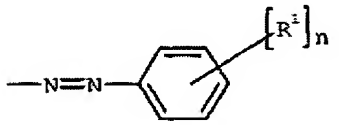
wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

wherein m is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^4$, $-NH-SO_2-R^6$, $-CO-NR^4-R^5$, $-NR^4-CO-R^6$, $-O-CO-R^6$, $-CO-O-R^4$, $-CO-R^4$, $-SO_3-R^4$, $-SO_2-R^4$, $-SO-R^6$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^4)(-O-R^5)$, $-NR^4-R^5$, $-O-R^4$, $-S-R^4$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$,

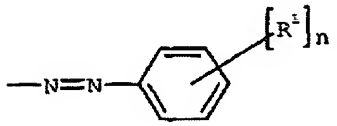
halogen and -M-R^4, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^6 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^6 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

25. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5,
wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, -SO_2-NH-R^2, -NH-SO_2-R^4, -CO-NR^2-R^3, -NR^2-CO-R^4, -O-CO-R^4, -CO-O-R^2, -CO-R^2, -SO_3-R^2, -SO_2-R^2, -SO-R^4, -P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3), -NR^2-R^3, -O-R^2, -S-R^2, -CN, -NO_2, a halogen and -M-R^2,
wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

26. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5,

wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO_2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogen and $-M-R^2$,

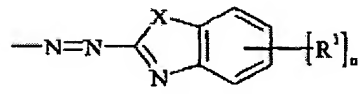
wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

27. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO_2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogen and $-M-R^2$,

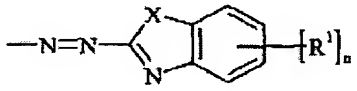
wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

wherein X is O, S or NR^5,

wherein R^2, R^3 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

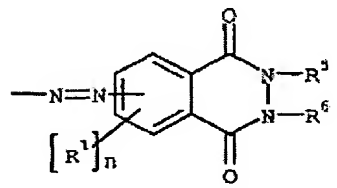
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

28. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,
wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO_2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, -CN, $-NO_2$, a halogen and $-M-R^2$,
wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein X is O, S or NR^5,
wherein R^2, R^3 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

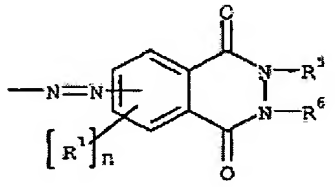
29. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO_2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, -CN, $-NO_2$, a halogen and $-M-R^2$,
wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^2, R^3, R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure, or wherein R^5 and R^6 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

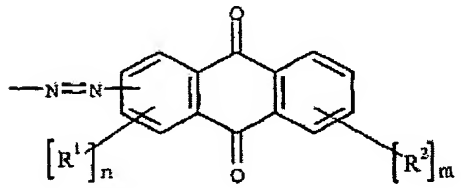
30. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3,
wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO_2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, -CN, $-NO_2$, a halogen and $-M-R^2$,
wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^2, R^3, R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

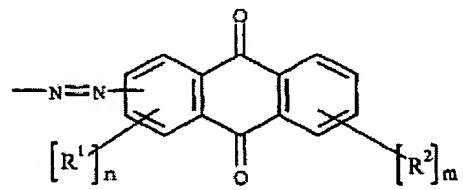
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^4 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure,
or wherein R^5 and R^6 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

31. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3,
wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,
wherein each R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^3$, $-NH-SO_2-R^5$, $-CO-NR^3-R^4$, $-NR^3-CO-R^5$, $-O-CO-R^5$, $-CO-O-R^3$, $-CO-R^3$, $-SO_3-R^3$, $-SO_2-R^3$, $-SO-R^5$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^3)(-O-R^4)$, $-NR^3-R^4$, $-O-R^3$, $-S-R^3$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogen and $-M-R^3$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^5 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

32. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

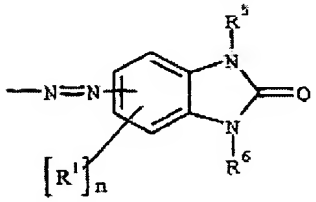
wherein m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

wherein each R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^3$, $-NH-SO_2-R^5$, $-CO-NR^3-R^4$, $-NR^3-CO-R^5$, $-O-CO-R^5$, $-CO-O-R^3$, $-CO-R^3$, $-SO_3-R^3$, $-SO_2-R^3$, $-SO-R^5$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^3)(-O-R^4)$, $-NR^3-R^4$, $-O-R^3$, $-S-R^3$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogen and $-M-R^3$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

wherein R^5 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^5 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

33. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula



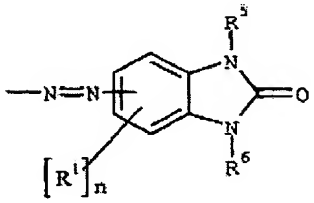
wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3,

wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO_2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogen and $-M-R^2$, wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

wherein R^2, R^3, R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,

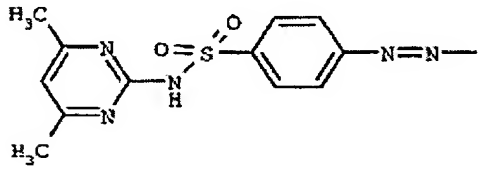
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^6 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

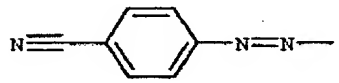
34. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises the following formula

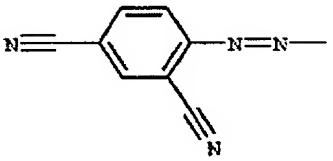


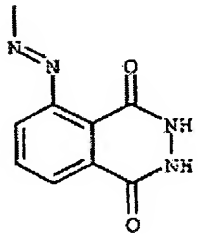
wherein n is 0, 1, 2 or 3,
wherein each R^1 is selected from hydrogen, an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group, $-SO_2-NH-R^2$, $-NH-SO_2-R^4$, $-CO-NR^2-R^3$, $-NR^2-CO-R^4$, $-O-CO-R^4$, $-CO-O-R^2$, $-CO-R^2$, $-SO_3-R^2$, $-SO_2-R^2$, $-SO-R^4$, $-P(=O)(-O-R^2)(-O-R^3)$, $-NR^2-R^3$, $-O-R^2$, $-S-R^2$, $-CN$, $-NO_2$, a halogen and $-M-R^2$,
wherein M represents a divalent linking group containing 1 to 8 carbon atoms,
wherein R^2, R^3, R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen and an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
wherein R^4 is selected from an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl group,
or wherein at least two groups selected from each R^1 to R^6 together represent the necessary atoms to form a cyclic structure.

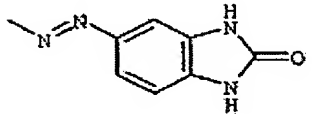
35. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises one of the following formulae:

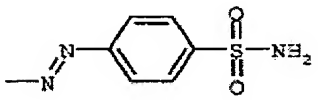


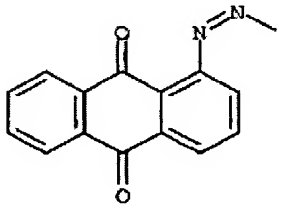


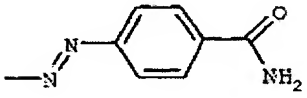




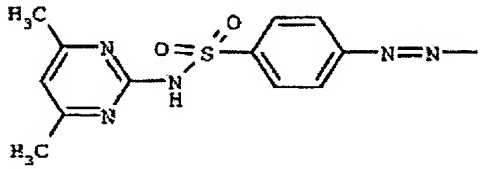


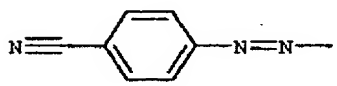


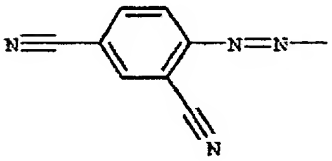


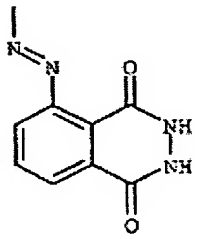


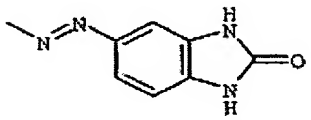
36. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3 wherein the -N=N-Q group comprises one of the following formulae:

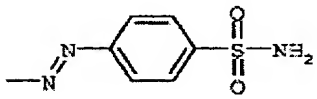


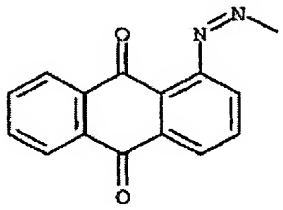


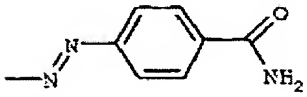












37. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

38. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

39. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 4, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

40. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor as amended in claim 5, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

41. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 6, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

42. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

43. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 8, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

44. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

45. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 10, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

46. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 11, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

47. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein said coating further comprises a dissolution inhibitor and wherein said precursor is a positive working lithographic printing plate precursor.

48. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 2, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

49. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 3, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

50. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 4, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

51. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 5, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

52. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 6, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

53. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 7, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

54. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 8, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

55. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

56. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 10, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

57. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 11, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

58. (New) The lithographic printing plate precursor according to claim 12, wherein said coating further comprising a latent Brönsted acid and an acid-crosslinkable compound and wherein said precursor is a negative working lithographic printing plate precursor.

59. (New) A method for increasing the chemical resistance of a coating of a positive working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor, the method comprising providing a coating comprising:

a polymer which comprises a phenolic monomeric unit wherein the phenyl group of the phenolic monomeric unit is substituted by a group having the structure -N=N-Q wherein the -N=N- group is covalently bound to a carbon atom of the phenyl group and wherein Q is an aromatic group,

an infrared absorbing agent, and

a dissolution inhibitor.

60. (New) A method for increasing the chemical resistance of a coating of a negative working heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate, the method comprising providing a coating comprising:

a polymer which comprises a phenolic monomeric unit wherein the phenyl group of the phenolic monomeric unit is substituted by a group having the structure -N=N-Q wherein the -N=N- group is covalently bound is a carbon atom of the phenyl group and wherein Q is an aromatic group,

a latent Brönsted acid, and

an acid-crosslinkable compound.